

Executive Registry

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2 DEC 1956

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Jackson:

It was most thoughtful of you to send me the copy of the report on Asian and African Languages. The NATO Parliamentarians' Conference support of your Committee's recommendations is most gratifying, and I sincerely hope that the North Atlantic Council likewise will see fit to endorse and implement the proposed area and language study program.

As I wrote to you in June of this year, this subject is of close and continuing concern to the Central Intelligence Agency in several respects. One of these is the problem of area and language training, and this is particularly so with respect to Africa and Asia. While this and other agencies, often in close collaboration, are making some progress in this field, I am looking forward hopefully to the day when our schools and universities will produce young people possessing broader area knowledge and who are truly competent in one or more foreign languages. This would relieve us of the necessity of devoting inordinate amounts of time to language training at the lower levels which could otherwise be devoted to perfecting language ability, to other professional training, or to productive work.

Intensive programs such as the Scientific and Technical Committee has devised will serve not only to encourage area and language study but also, by making available now nonexistent materials, will enable a more universal coverage.

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Be assured of my continuing interest in the further progress of this proposed program.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

O/AD/OTR - Draft (25 Nov 59)
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CONCURRENCE:

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

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